

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : (To Be Assigned) Confirmation No. : (TBA)
First Named Inventor : Uwe HARDTKE
Filed : December 13, 2005
TC/A.U. : (To Be Assigned)
Examiner : (To Be Assigned)
Docket No. : 095309.57201US
Customer No. : 23911
Title : Watts Strut

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 AND 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the attached Form PTO-1449 lists documents which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

I. Time Period of Submission

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

1) no later than three months from the application's filing date or 2) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later) or 3) before a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination, and therefore no statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

2) after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before a Final Office Action, a Notice of Allowance, or an action closing prosecution (*Ex parte Quayle*), (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicant is filing concurrently herewith:

- a Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e); or
- a fee in the amount of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

3) after either a Final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee, and therefore Applicant is submitting herewith:

a Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e); and

a fee in the amount of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

II. Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement; or

I hereby state that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to my knowledge after making a reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

III. Submission of Non-English Language Documents

The following is a concise explanation of relevance of the non-English language documents listed in the attached Form PTO-1449:

The relevance of documents AE to the subject matter of the present invention is/are provided in the specification of the above-identified application.

Corresponding foreign or international report(s) citing document(s) AC-AG, together with an English-language version(s) (if not already in English) of that portion of the report(s) indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office(s) is/are submitted.

English language family member publication(s) of document(s) _____ is/are noted on Form PTO-1449.

English language abstract(s) is/are submitted for document(s) AE-AG.

English translation(s) of the foreign language document(s) _____ is/are submitted herewith.

Applicant submits the following explanations:
_____.

IV. Continuations/Divisionals/PCT National Stage Applications

Documents _____ were of record in parent application Serial No. _____, filed _____, from which this application claims benefit. As provided in 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d), copies of the documents are not being provided since they were previously submitted to or cited by the United States Patent and Trademark Office in the afore-mentioned parent application.

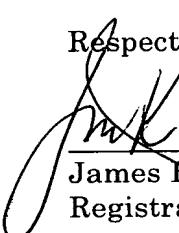
Copies of documents AC-AD listed on the attached form PTO-1449 have already been provided by the International Searching Authority, therefore, duplicate copies are not attached hereto.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

If necessary, this paper should be considered as an authorization to charge Deposit Account 05-1323, Attorney Docket No.: 095309.57201US, for the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

Respectfully submitted,

December 13, 2005


James F. McKeown
Registration No. 25,406

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
JFM:kac

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
Sheet	1	of	2	Application Number	(To Be Assigned)
				Filing Date	December 13, 2005
				First Named Inventor	Uwe HARDTKE
				Art Unit	(To Be Assigned)
				Examiner Name	(To Be Assigned)
				Attorney Docket Number	095309.57201US

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials'	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)				
AA	US- 6,149,198	A	11-21-2000	KLAAS		
AB	US- 6,471,226	B1	10-29-2002	KLAAS		
	US-					
	US-					
	US-					
	US-					
	US-					
	US-					
	US-					

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials'	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
AC	DE 198 43 825 A1	03-30-2000	VOLKSWAGEN AG		
AD	DE 197 20 133 A	11-27-1997	VOLKSWAGEN AG		
AE	DE 100 14 603 C2	10-18-2001	PROGRESS WERK OBERKIRCH AG		ABS
AF	DE 199 61 678 A1	06-28-2001	MAGNA IHV GESELLSCHAFT FUR INNENHOCHDRUCKVERFAHREN MBH		ABS
AG	WO 96/32312	10-17-1996	GESELLSCHAFT FUR INNENHOCHDRUCKVERFAHREN MBH & CO. KG		ABS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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PTO/SB/16 (01-05)

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<p>Substitute for form 1449B/PTO</p> <p>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</p> <p><i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i></p>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	(To Be Assigned)
				Filing Date	December 13, 2005
				First Named Inventor	Uwe HARDTKE
				Art Unit	(To Be Assigned)
				Examiner Name	(To Be Assigned)
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	095309.57201US

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). **2**Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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